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Report - Metis Rehabilitation. 1969.



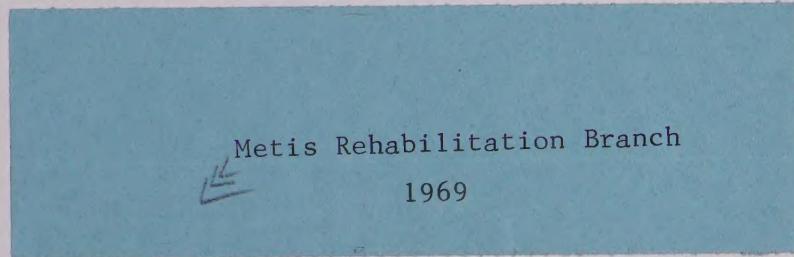
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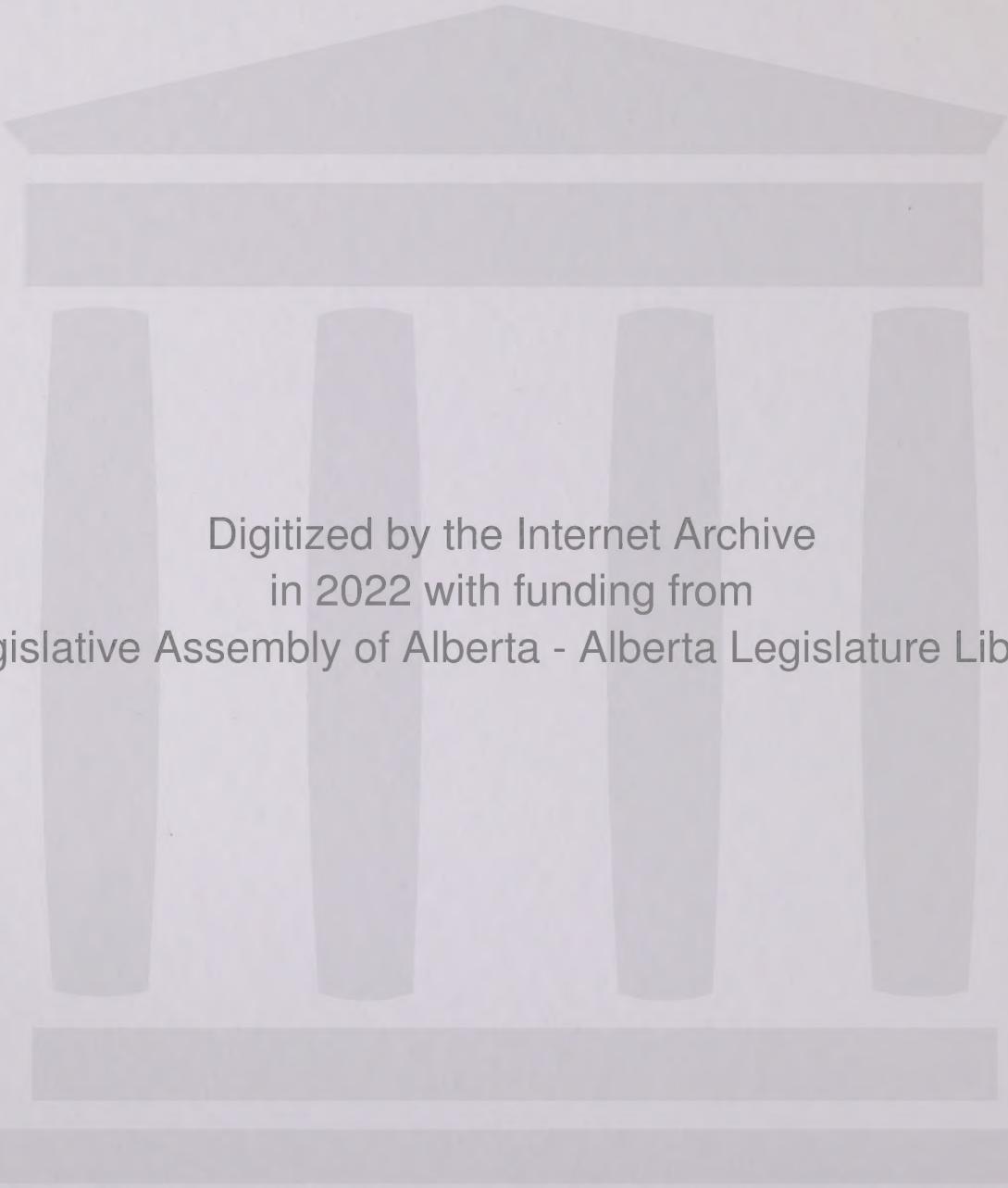
GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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METIS REHABILITATION BRANCH
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Metis Rehabilitation Branch has jurisdiction over five Metis Settlement Areas, commonly known as Colonies, in the northern part of Alberta.

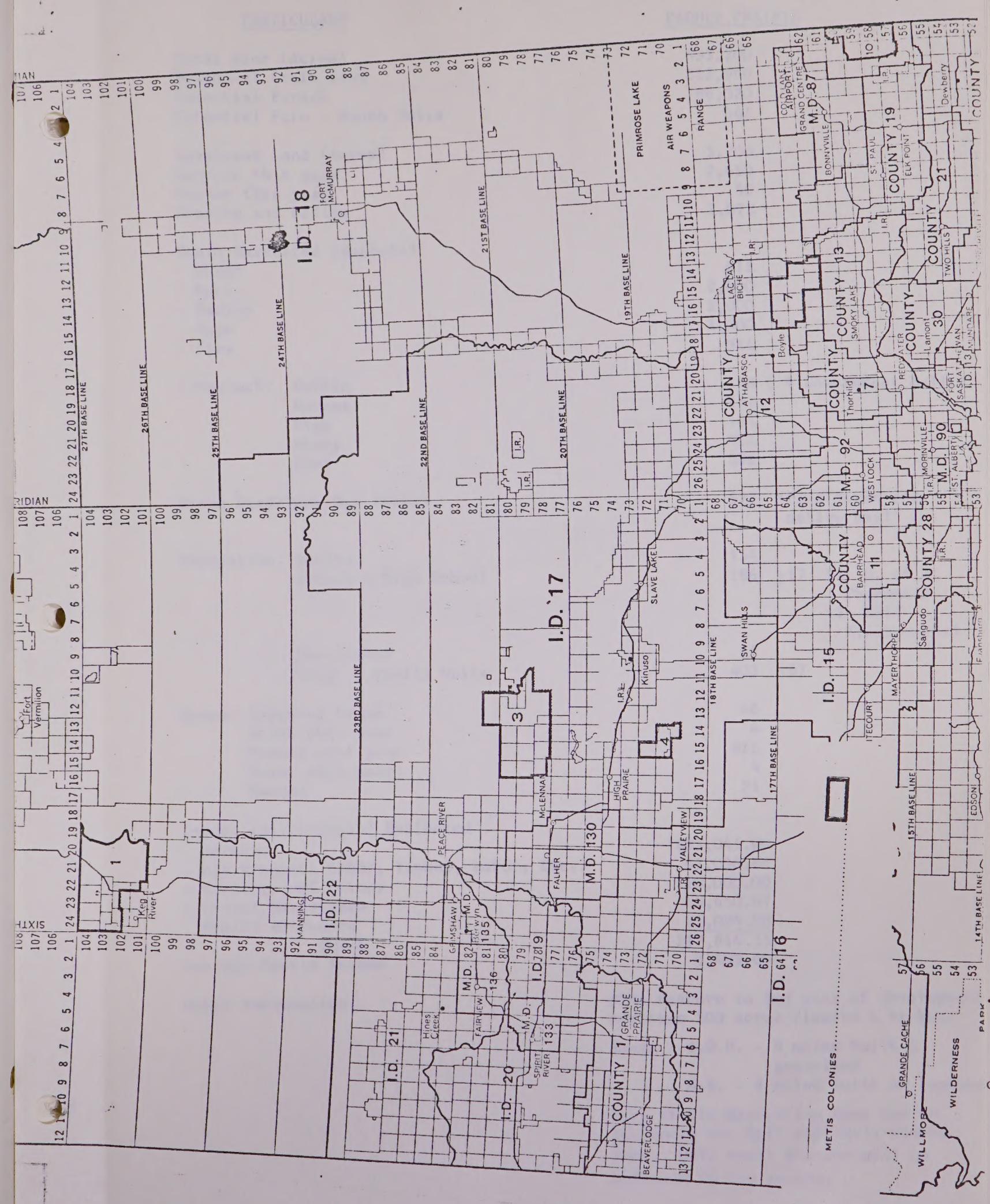
For purposes of administration these five colonies have been divided into eight areas:

1. Keg River Colony #1 - known as Paddle Prairie
(80 miles north of Manning on Highway #35)
J. E. Bryan,
Colony Manager,
Paddle Prairie P.O., Alberta.
2. Utikuma Colony #3
 - (a) Big Prairie Colony #3W
(35 miles north of High Prairie)
Wayne McCullough,
Colony Manager,
High Prairie, Alberta.
 - (b) Gift Lake Colony #3E
(60 miles north east of High Prairie)
Wayne McCullough,
Colony Manager,
High Prairie, Alberta.
3. East Prairie Colony #4
(30 miles south east of High Prairie)
Wayne McCullough,
Colony Manager,
High Prairie, Alberta.
4. Beaver River Colony #7
 - (a) Kikino Colony #7E
(30 miles south of Lac La Biche on Highway #36)
Howard Lett,
Colony Manager,
Lac La Biche, Alberta.

(b) Caslan Colony #7W
(20 miles east of Boyle)
G. Heffernan,
Colony Manager,
Caslan, Alberta.

5. Fishing Lake - Elizabeth Colony #10
- (a) Elizabeth Colony # 10N
(25 miles south east of Grand Centre)
D. Wiens,
Colony Manager,
Grand Centre, Alberta.
- (b) Fishing Lake Colony # 10S
(35 miles east of Elk Point)
Albert Wanuch,
Colony Manager,
Frog Lake, Alberta

T. M. Johnston,
Room 902, Executive Building,
Jasper Avenue and 109 Street,
Edmonton, Alberta.
is Director of the Metis Rehabilitation Branch.



<u>PARTICULARS</u>	<u>PADDLE PRAIRIE</u>
Total Area (Acres)	403,200
Potential Grain Land	312,960
Potential Forage	88,320
Potential Farm - Ranch Units	561
Developed Land (Acres)	5,780
Cropped this year	2,650
Broken this year	58
Grazing and Fallow	3,072
Grain Harvested (Bushels)	
- Wheat	NIL
- Oats	2,000
- Barley	2,000
- Rape	1,000
- Flax	NIL
Livestock: Cattle	188 (4 Government Bulls)
Horses	112
Pigs	165
Sheep	NIL
Fowl	426
Green Feed/Tame Hay (Tons)	573 (Plus straw and native hay)
Population: Adults	154
School & High School	186 -17 (1- U. of A. Pharmacy) (1- NAIT Electronics)
Pre-school	65
Total & Family Units	405 -67
Homes: Improved Frame	46
Built this year	4
Phones this year	NIL
Power this year	4
Needed	21
Income (All Sources) Estimated	
- Farming	\$23,045.00
- All Projects (ARDA, Timber, Labor, Etc.)	47,036.66
- Earnings off Colony	110,000.00
- Social Assistance	16,650.67
- Family Allowance	<u>21,084.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>217,816.33</u>
Average Family Income	3,403.00
Other Information:	ARDA Pasture in 3rd year of development. Addition 500 acres cleared & broken.
	Roads - D.O.H. - 8 miles built & gravelled
	M.R. - 2 miles built or improved
	Very little harvesting done due to extremely wet fall and early winter snow. Only small portion will be salvaged in the spring.

<u>PARTICULARS</u>	<u>BIG PRAIRIE</u>
Total Area (Acres)	203,200
Potential Grain Land	24,960
Potential Forage - Pasture Land	159,040
Potential Farm - Ranch Units	76
Developed Land (Acres)	1,232
Cropped this year	853
Broken this year	64
Grazing & Fallow	315
Grain Harvested (Bushels)	
- Wheat	NIL
- Oats	NIL
- Barley	NIL
- Rape	NIL
- Flax	NIL
Livestock: Cattle	100
Horses	79 (2 Gov't bulls)
Pigs	25
Sheep	NIL
Fowl	NIL
Green Feed/Tame Hay (Tons)	298 (Plus straw and and native hay)
Population: Adults	99
School and high school	105 -12
Pre-school	78
Total and Family Units	282 -47
Homes: Improved Frame	
Others	13
Built this year	5
Phones this year	NIL
Power this year	NIL
Needed	22
Income (All Sources) Estimated	
- Farming	\$ 9,300.00
- All projects (ARDA, timber, work)	109,656.60
- Earnings off Colony	8,000.00
- Social Assistance	6,422.44
- Family Allowance	15,372.00
TOTAL	\$148,751.04
Average Family Income	3,305.00
Other Information:	Roads Built D.O.H. - 4 miles built and gravelled
	M.B. - 2 miles access roads improved

<u>PARTICULARS</u>	<u>GIFT LAKE</u>
Total Area (Acres)	207,360
Potential Grain Land	NIL
Potential Forage - Pasture Land	184,320
Potential Farm - Land Units	40
Developed Land (Acres)	204
Cropped this year	156
Broken this year	NIL
Grazing and Fallow	48
Grain Harvested (Bushels)	
- Wheat	NIL
- Oats	NIL
- Barley	NIL
- Rape	NIL
- Flax	NIL
Livestock: Cattle	148 (+2 Government)
Horses	82
Pigs	NIL
Sheep	NIL
Fowl	NIL
Green Feed/Tame Hay (Tons)	234 (Plus native hay)
Population: Adult	155
School & High School	141 - 13
Pre-school	135
Total & Family Units	431 - 72
Homes: Improved Frame	37
Others	24
Built this Year	7
Phones this Year	NIL
Power this year	NIL
Needed	35
Income (All Sources) Est.	
- Farming	3,000.00
- All Projects (Fishing, Timber, Work)	184,472.05
- Earning Off Colony	28,000.00
- Social Assistance	6,688.97
- Family Allowance	<u>22,544.00</u>
TOTAL	\$244,705.02
Average Family Income	3,546.00
Other Information	Roads Built or Improved D.O.H. - 15 miles gravelled M.R. - 2 miles improved Community Pasture - 2 sections fenced

<u>PARTICULARS</u>	<u>EAST PRAIRIE</u>
Total Area (Acres)	80,640
Potential Grain Land	52,240
Potential Forage - Pasture Land	14,080
Potential Farm - Ranch Units	100
Developed Land (Acres)	847
Cropped this year	342
Broken this year	170
Grazing & Fallow	335
Grain Harvested (Bushels)	
- Wheat	NIL
- Oats	NIL
- Barley	NIL
- Rape	NIL
- Flax	NIL
Livestock: Cattle	48 (2 Gov't bulls)
Horses	64
Pigs	20
Sheep	NIL
Fowl	155
Green Feed/Tame Hay (Tons)	144 (Plus native hay)
Population: Adult	80
School and high school	90 - 6
Pre-school	54
Total & Family Units	224 - 37
Homes: Improved Frame	24
Others	9
Built this year	9
Phones this year	NIL
Power this year	NIL
Needed	13
Income (All Sources) Estimated	
- Farming	\$ 8,300.00
- All Projects (Labour, Timber, etc.)	89,015.77
- Earnings off Colony	16,000.00
- Social Assistance	8,271.84
- Family Allowance	<u>12,096.00</u>
TOTAL	\$133,683.61
Average Family Income	3,820.00
Other Information:	Roads - D.O.H. - 10 miles gravelled M.B. - 3 miles improved
	Community working with H.R.D.A. towards a possible A.R.D.A. project.

<u>PARTICULARS</u>	<u>KIKINO</u>
Total Area (Acres)	111,000
Potential Grain Land	NIL
Potential Forage - Pasture Land	101,000
Potential Farm - Ranch Units	23
Developed Land (Acres)	751
Cropped this year	332
Broken this year	120
Grazing & Fallow	299
Grain Harvested (Bushels)	
- Wheat	NIL
- Oats	1,610
- Barley	NIL
- Rape	NIL
- Flax	NIL
Livestock: Cattle	394
Horses	191
Pigs	59
Sheep	0
Fowl	184
Green feed/Tame hay (Tons)	527 (Plus straw & native hay)
Population: Adults	172
School & high School	237 - 21
Pre-school	112
Total & family units	521 - 87
Homes: Improved frame	59
Others	16
Built this year	11
Phones this year	5
Power this year	12
Needed	28
Income (All Sources) Est.	
- Farming	44,670.00
- All Projects (ARDA, Timber, work)	54,567.11
-Earnings off Colony	74,000.00
- Social Assistance	50,599.29
- Family Allowance	29,216.00
TOTAL	\$253,052.40
Average Family Income	3,036.00
Other Information:	ARDA project approved under control of local organization
	Alberta New Start in operation
	Roads built D.O.H. - 4 miles
	Roads gravelled D.O.H. - 6 miles
	Roads built M.R. - 3 miles

<u>PARTICULARS</u>	<u>CASLAN</u>
Total Area (Acres)	86,000
Potential Grain Land	NIL
Potential Forage-Pasture Land	81,950
Potential Farm-Ranch Units	20
Developed Land (Acres)	274
Cropped this year	33
Broken this year	120
Grazing and Fallow	121
Grain Harvested (Bushels)	
- Wheat	NIL
- Barley	NIL
- Oats	NIL
- Rape	NIL
- Flax	NIL
Livestock: Cattle	54 (94 Gov't)
Horses	90
Pigs	NIL
Sheep	NIL
Fowl	244
Green Feed/Fame Hay	78 (Plus native hay)
Population: Adult	184
School & high school	124 -9
Pre-school	<u>106</u>
Total & Family Units	<u>413 -69</u>
Homes: Improved Frame	40
Others	16
Built this year	7
Phones this year	NIL
Power this year	15 (awaiting hook up)
Needed	29
Income (All sources) estimated	
- Farming	2,100.00
- All Projects (ARDA, work, etc.)	53,801.10
- Earning off Colony	25,000.00
- Social Assistance	27,853.16
- Family Allowance	<u>19,320.00</u>
TOTAL	\$128,074.26
Average Family Income	1,941.00

Other Information:

ARDA Project in second year
 Hall wired and heating system installed
 Local "Red Willow Co-operative Association"
 has undertaken the ARDA project
 Roads D.O.H. - 1 mile constructed

<u>PARTICULARS</u>	<u>ELIZABETH</u>
Total Area (Acres)	64,000
Potential Grain Land	NIL
Potential Forage - Pasture Land	61,500
Potential Farm - Ranch Units	13
Developed Land (Acres)	748
Cropped this year	338
Broken this year	183
Grazing and Fallow	227
Grain Harvested (Bushels)	
- Wheat	30
- Oats	110
- Barley	NIL
- Rape	NIL
- Flax	NIL
Livestock: Cattle	99 (+ 193 Government)
Horses	122
Pigs	1
Sheep	0
Fowl	196
Green Feed/Tame Hay (Tons)	430 (Plus native hay)
Population: Adult	98
School and high school	114 - 20
Pre-school	55
Total and Family Units	267 - 45
Homes: Improved Frame	36
Others	2
Built this year	8
Phones this year	NIL
Power this year	15 (wire with hook up to come)
Needed	9
Income (all Sources) Est.	
- Farming	11,500.00
- All Projects (ARDA, work etc.)	26,518.85
- Earnings off Colony	77,000.00
- Social Assistance	11,460.43
- Family Allowance	14,196.00
TOTAL	140,675.28
Average Family Income	3,290.00
Other Information:	ARDA Pasture Project in 2nd year of development. Twenty-two sections have been fenced. Roads Built - M.R. - 1 mile Co-operative Association con- tinues to obtain machinery on a rental/purchase plan.

<u>PARTICULARS</u>	<u>FISHING LAKE</u>
Total Area (Acres)	93,000
Potential Grain Land	NIL
Potential Forage - Pasture Land	85,800
Potential Farm - Ranch Units	16
Developed Land (Acres)	383
Cropped this year	313
Broken this year	63
Grazing and Fallow	7
Grain Harvested (Bushels)	
- Wheat	NIL
- Oats	NIL
- Barley	NIL
- Rape	NIL
- Flax	NIL
Livestock: Cattle	310 (- 85 Government)
Horses	204
Pigs	NIL
Sheep	NIL
Fowl	213
Green Feed/Tame Hay (Tons)	620 (Plus native hay)
Population: Adult	128
School and high school	73 -18
Pre-school	55
Total and Family Units	256 -43
Homes: Improved frame	27
Others	17
Built this year	6
Phones this year	NIL
Power this year	14
Needed	16
Income (All Sources) Estimated	
- Farming	\$18,000.00
- All Projects (Work, etc.)	23,314.48
- Earning off Colony	38,000.00
- Social Assistance	16,775.61
- Family Allowance	10,752.00
TOTAL	\$106,842.09
Average Family Income	2,606.00

Other Information:

ARDA Project awaiting Federal approval

Roads Built & Gravelled

D.O.H. - 3 miles M.R.-10 mi. improved

Hall - settlers have 17,000 F.B.M. sawn lumber to contribute towards proposed community hall.

<u>PARTICULARS</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
Total Area (Acres)	1,248,400
Potential Grain Land	390,160
Potential Forage - Pasture Land	776,010
Potential Farm-Ranch Units	849
Developed Land (Acres)	10,219
Cropped this year	5,017
Broken this year	778
Grazing and Fallow	4,424
Grain Harvested (Bushels)	
- Wheat	30
- Oats	3,720
- Barley	2,000
- Rape	1,000
- Flax	NIL
Livestock: Cattle	1,341 (+457 Gov't)
Horses	945
Pigs	270
Sheep	NIL
Fowl	1,418
Green Feed/Tame Hay (Tons)	2,904
Population: Adults	1,069
School & high school	1,070 -116
Pre-school	660
Total & Family Units	2,799 -467
Homes: Improved Frame	294
Others	106
Built this year	57
Phones this year	5
Power this year	60
Improved Homes Needed	175
Income (All Sources) Est.	
- Farming	\$119,915.00
- All Projects (ARDA, Timber, Work)	588,382.02
- Earnings off Colony	376,000.00
- Social Assistance	144,722.41
- Family Allowance	144,580.00
TOTAL	<u>\$1,373,599.43</u>
Average Family Income	\$3,087.00
Other Information:	(a) 1 ARDA project in 3rd development year (Paddle Prairie) 2 ARDA projects in 2nd development year (Caslan, Elizabeth) 1 ARDA project in 1st development year (Kikino) 1 ARDA project approval expected shortly (Fishing Lake)

PARTICULARSTOTALS

Other Information (Cont'd)

- 2 ARDA projects in planning stage
(East Prairie & Gift Lake)
- (b) Alberta Newstart Kikino School in first year of operation with 5 family units graduated to Ft. Mc Murray for further training.
- (c) Caslan Community Hall built, and has been supplied with power and a propane heating system.
- (d) Road construction
- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Dep't of Highways | 20 miles built |
| and | 46 miles gravelled |
| Metis Rehabilitation | |
| Branch | 23 miles improved |
- (e) Elizabeth Colony Co-operative Association has paid for machinery obtained last year on rental/purchase plan, and has obtained more equipment on the same plan.
- (f) Very poor harvest season in areas devoted to grain farming with practically no harvesting done.
- (g) Average family income is arrived at for only those families, the head of which would be considered as a member of the "labor - force" age group. Although the population figures include all pensioners, their income from these sources are not included in total income figures, and these pensioners are not included in family groups to arrive at average family income.

PADDLE PRAIRIE METIS COLONY #1

Four new frame dwellings were built by this Branch at Paddle Prairie during the year, three other dwellings were improved by this Branch, and an additional two were improved by the settlers themselves. Four settlers had their homes wired and hooked up to power, paying the cost of this themselves.

As in the whole Peace River area, harvest conditions at Paddle Prairie were very poor and little harvesting was completed. The balance of the crop is considered as practically a complete loss. Settlers continue to increase the number of cattle and hogs raised and sold from this area, with a slight increase in cattle numbers and a 40% hog increase. Additional work was done on the ARDA Community Pasture, now in its third year of development. Along with more clearing, breaking, harrowing and root picking, three dugouts for cattle water supply were also put in by PFRA.

The Department of Highways built and gravelled eight miles of road, from Highway 35 west to the Chinchaga River area. This will provide better access for settlers who now farm in that area, as well as to induce other settlers to take up the very good land available there. In addition to the above road construction this Branch improved an additional two miles of side roads.

This year there are 186 children of school age on this area, most of whom attend the local Paddle Prairie School or the Keg River School. Of these seventeen are in high school grades and are in attendance at Manning, Peace River, Grouard or Edmonton. One male student from this area is in his first year of pharmacy at the U. of A., while another is in his first year of electronics at N.A.I.T. Of those students who attended school last year and either dropped out or completed school, two are working for the Great Slave Lake Railway, one is a security guard at Peace River, one is working at Pine Point, two are employed by Alberta Government Telephones in Grand Prairie, one has joined the Navy and one is at home.

A number of new settlers have either applied for membership, or have been approved for membership and now reside on the area, which resulted in a 14% increase in population. Many settlers continue to work off the Colony, with 14 in full time employment away from the area and an additional 40 in

seasonal employment mainly in lumber camps or nearby oil fields.

One outside mill operator purchased logs from area settlers last winter. These logs, scaled at 1,600,000 F.B.M. brought a cash income of \$28,000.00 to the settlers and \$9,600.00 in timber dues for the Metis Trust. This same operator manufactured these logs into finishing lumber on the area this summer which in itself provided a number of settlers with employment in the sawing and planing.

BIG PRAIRIE METIS COLONY #3W

Five new frame dwellings were constructed during the year with settlers supplying their own lumber needs for three. Four other dwellings were improved, with Metis Branch assistance for materials for three of those. The exterior of homes continue to be painted with paint provided for this purpose. Many settlers continue to make improvements on the interior of their homes from their own resources. To further improve the water supply on the area, three more wells were drilled - two by this Branch and by a settler.

Settlers broke an additional 64 acres of land for themselves and also cropped most of the land already developed. None of this years crop was threshed, but stored for winter cattle fodder. Number of cattle on the Big Prairie area increased by 80% over the number last year. Part of this increase was caused by some new settlers with cattle moving into the area, but the greater increase resulted from the fact that rancher settlers continue to hold their calf increase and also make additional purchases.

Seasonal logging operations provided most settlers with their main source of income. A total of 10,116,700 F.B.M. in logs were cut and sold to mill operators in High Prairie and Enilda at a settlers cash return of \$85,991.95 with an additional \$60,600 in timber dues for the Metis Trust. A number of tamarack posts were also cut and sold locally. A few adult settlers take seasonal employment off the colony but due to the timber activity this number is very low and limited to the now - logging season.

Most of the 105 children of school age of this area attend the local Colony school, except for 12 in high school grades who attend school and board either in High Prairie or Grouard. None of last year's students either graduated or dropped out. Several new families have moved into this area in the last year which results in a 37% increase in population.

GIFT LAKE METIS COLONY # 3E

Seven new frame dwellings were built in Gift Lake this year, with settlers providing all the lumber requirements for 6 of these units. This Branch supplied the lumber for one unit, and the other materials needed for all units. In addition to this new construction, seven other dwellings were further improved, two by settlers through their own resources, and the other five with some assistance from this Branch. Settlers continue to take advantage of the paint provided to paint the exteriors of their own homes.

The natural resources of this area continue to provide the settlers with their greatest employment opportunities and incomes. A locally owned and operated sawmill produced and sold 1,300,00 F.B.M. of sawn lumber while other settlers cut 8,579,614 F.B.M. in logs which were sold to mills in Enilda and High Prairie. The above production not only provided employment and income for local settlers but also gave a lift to the economic life of truckers as well as the centers of Enilda and High Prairie. In addition to the above production, settlers also cut and sold 5,000 cords of pulpwood and 2,000 tamarack posts. The above production provided the settlers concern with an income of approximately \$129,426.00 with an additional \$62,278.00 in timber dues for the Metis Trust. During the commercial fishing seasons on local lakes, colony fisherman caught and sold 112,000 pound of whitefish and 225,000 pounds of pike and tulibee for a value of approximately \$35,900.00.

One hundred fourty one children from this school are of school age. The majority of those attend the local school, but 13 in high school grades board out and attend school at Grouard or High Prairie. Of the four students who either completed school or dropped out the last school term, three boys are now at home working in the local logging industry, and a girl is clerking in a store.

The total population increased over last year by approximately 18% with some new settlers moving in. Ranching settlers continue to increase their basic cattle herds with cattle numbers this year well over that of the previous year. Four settlers from Gift Lake are in full employment off the

Colony and an additional eight take seasonal employment off the Colony. In addition the trained fire fighting crews are called upon by Lands and Forests during the fire season.

The Department of Highways regravelled fifteen miles of the main Colony road this year while the Metis Branch using local labor and equipment built or otherwise improved two miles of side and access roads in the area.

EAST PRAIRIE METIS COLONY #4

Nine new frame dwellings were built at East Prairie with the settlers supplying all of their own lumber requirements with the Metis Branch supplying the other materials and construction costs. Most of these homes have been painted on the outside with paint provided for this purpose.

And additional 170 acres of land were broken on this area this year to further develop the farming potential of those settlers interested in farming, and 3 sections of raw land were fenced to increase the size of the community pasture for settlers stock. Numbers of livestock are practically unchanged from last year.

A total of 8,235,220 F.B.M. in logs and 133 cords of pulpwood were cut and sold by the settlers this past year. The earnings to the settlers concerned in this project was approximately \$71,293. In addition to this timber dues for the Metis Trust amounted to \$49,544. Two settlers are in full time employment off the colony and an additional eight leave home to take advantage of seasonal employment opportunities to supplement their Colony earnings.

A Head Start Program for pre-school children was held for four weeks during June and July to provide school experiences for those children who started regular classes in September. There are 90 children of school age in this area. Of these six are in high school grades, 3 of whom attend schools in Edmonton. The balance are bussed to High Prairie daily. Of those students who attended high school etc. last term, four (males) are now living on the area and taken up land in their own right, two (males) are in full time employment off the area, and one (female) is now teaching for the Northland School Division.

Nine applicants with families and two single applicants for membership to this area were received and approved during the year. A few other settlers were cancelled on the recommendation of the local Council for either not taking up residence on the area, or not making necessary improvements on their allotments. This resulted in a 41% increase in population over last year.

KIKINO METIS COLONY # 7 E

Eleven new frame dwellings were constructed by this Branch on this area during the year. Several of these new homes have received a coat of stucco while others have been finished with dropsiding and paint. This Branch also improved four settlers homes, while an additional ten settlers carried on their own home improvement program. Five additional homes received phone connections and twelve homes were wired and hooked up to power. To further improve the water supply on this area 5 new wells were drilled, one by a settler and four by this Branch.

Sixty acres were seeded to greenfeed and harvested for winter feed for the government community herd. This greenfeed is supplemented by some native hay harvested, but due to the weather during the haying season amount of winter feed stored is limited. Other purchases will have to be made to winter the stock. Seventy-five head of cattle are in the community herd to be wintered. In addition to this number, 16 more cows were shared out to settlers and 15 steers were sold. One hundred twenty acres of land were broken for a number of settlers to develop into forage crop land.

A total of 237 children on this area are of school age and are bussed daily to schools in Lac La Biche. Of this number 21 are in high school grades. Busses are supplied by the Lac La Biche School Division, with the drivers being local settlers. Two female students dropped out of school last term and are at home while the balance continue to take advantage of the educational opportunities available to them. The pre-school program continues to operate on this area during the early summer for those children who are to begin regular school attendance in September. Preventative Social Services, personnel from the Department of Youth and volunteer area settlers continue to be involved in this beneficial program.

The Alberta Newstart Inc. Kikino School has been in operation since last winter giving an introduction to a variety of trades, as well as teaching basic educational skills. At present 12 man-wife team units are attending this school. Of those who have been in previous attendance 5 families have been sent to Ft. McMurray for further training. A number of local settlers are employed in this school on a full time basis as cooks, janitors, etc.

There is a slight increase in the population on this area over last year. More settlers are taking advantage of full time employment opportunities

off the Colony, with these now numbering 16. An additional 10 settlers obtain seasonal employment away from home.

The Kikino A.R.D.A. pasture and forage land program was approved this summer. A Kikino Livestock Association was formed and has become the funding and development agency for this program. Contracts have been let for the fence line clearing and land development clearing and this work is progressing very favorable. With the completion of this pasture and forage land development, rancher-settlers will be in a position to increase their basic cattle herds due to these added facilities.

Settlers took 80,000 F.B.M. in timber from the area, which was manufactured into lumber used for the area housing program.

CASLAN METIS COLONY # 7W

Seven new frame dwellings and 3 others were improved by this Branch, while one settler made further improvements to his own home. The exteriors of many homes have now been painted with the paint supplied for this purpose. Eight new wells were drilled to provide a more adequate water supply for more settlers. On this area 15 homes were wired this year, with the Utility Company to make the necessary line extention and power hookups when a crew for this purpose is available. This is expected shortly.

Sixty-five acres on the government farm were seeded to green feed this last spring. The yield from this land, plus the native hay harvested resulted in 260 tons of feed being stored for the winters feed supply for the community herd. This herd now numbers 94 animals to be wintered. In addition to this number, 20 cows were distributed to settlers and 28 steers were sold this fall.

The Caslan Community Pasture ARDA project was approved in January 1969 with funds made available for the 1968-69 and 1969-70 programs during this year. The Red Willow Co-operative Association undertook the development program under contract to this Branch which acted as funding agent. Twenty-five sections of land were fenced, 375 acres were cleared and piled and 80 acres were broken, as well as one set of cattle corrals constructed. Over and above the ARDA program 120 acres of land were broken for settlers to develop into forage crop land.

One hundred twenty-four children of this area are of school age. These are bussed daily into schools in Caslan, or for high school -9 pupils -to Lac La Biche. There were no graduates or drop outs from the school children of this area in the last school year.

The Caslan Community Hall was completed during the year, wired and also had a propane heating system installed. This hall was used last summer by 2 workers from the Alberta Youth Corp, who spent 3 months on the area. Approximately 25 adult settlers find seasonal employment off the area. Several young adults have taken advantage of the Alberta New Start programs in Lac La Biche. There is a slight increase, 4%, in the population.

A very small amount of timber, approximately 9,000 F.B.M. was taken out and converted into lumber for local use. A number of posts were also cut and used on area projects.

ELIZABETH METIS COLONY #10N

Eight new frame dwellings were built for settlers on this area this year. Settlers continue to paint the exteriors of their own homes with paint provided by this Branch for this purpose. Many also paint and otherwise complete the interiors of their homes on their own resources. A total of 15 homes have been wired for power, and the power company has been directed to proceed with the line extention and power hookups to these homes.

To date this year no new wells have been drilled. However the local Co-operative Association has purchased a truck mounted well drilling machine and will undertake this program very shortly.

The Metis Branch cropped 255 acres of land this year. Only 330 bushels of wheat and 1500 bushels of oats were threshed, the balance of the crop being stored for winter feed for the government community cattle herd. From the above, plus the harvest of native hay, and some purchases a total of 470 tons of feed are stored for winter use. With last springs calf increase the government community herd now numbers 193 of these 28 cows will be turned over to a number of settlers on a share basis, leaving 165 to winter. It is anticipated that the number of cattle shared yearly in the future will be increased considerably, as a greater portion of the basic herd is now made up of mature cows rather than calves and yearlings.

The number of cattle owned by the settlers dropped slightly from last year. This resulted from the fact that one settler who usually had one of the larger herds on the area was forced to dispose of his entire herd due to his ill health. However other ranching settlers continue to increase their basic breeding herds of cattle.

An additional 183 acres were broken by and for settlers this year to further increase this developed land for the raising of forage crops. This last spring settlers took advantage of the ARDA Soil and Crop Improvement Project to obtain sufficient forage seed (brome, alfalfa, and alsike) to seed approximately 220 acres of land to forage crops which will be used for winter fodder for their cattle. The ARDA Community Pasture Project is in the second year of its development program and this year 22 sections of

raw pasture land were fenced and cross fenced. In addition to this fencing a set of corrals were constructed.

One hundred fourteen children from this area are attending school, twenty of whom are in high school. Many of those children attend the local school (Grade 1-6), others are bussed daily to Grand Centre and Cold Lake schools, while others are boarding out in Bonnyville or Edmonton. Of those students who either completed school last term, or dropped out, two are now housewives, one is a stenographer and one male student has bought out the improvements of another settler who has left the area, and is now farming and ranching.

There is a slight increase, approximately 4% in the total population of the area. Several new settlers have made application for membership, while some families have moved off, mainly to other Colonies. A few more settlers took advantage of the programs at the Ft. McMurray Adult Vocational School. There are thirteen settlers from this area who have full time employment off the Colony, most of whom commute to work daily. In addition twelve more obtain season employment away from the area.

Timber resources are practically non-existent on this area. However 12,000 F.B.M. in logs were taken and sawn into lumber which was all used for construction purposes. A quantity of posts approximately 12,000, were cut, most of which were sold to the A.R.D.A. Community Pasture Program.

The program of purchasing farm equipment by the Co-operative Association continue to operate very successfully. All of the equipment obtained on this rental/purchase plan last year is now completely paid for. This year the Association also obtained a 660 I H C diesel farm tractor, a new 10' Alteen breaking disc and a 28" J D thresher on rubber, which at this time are half paid for, and also a truck mounted well drilling machine.

FISHING LAKE METIS COLONY #10

An additional 6 new frame dwellings were constructed on this area during the year. One settler made further improvements to his own dwelling while 2 other settlers were assisted in their home improvements by this Branch. Fourteen homes were wired this year, the Utility Company made the necessary power line extension and hook ups, which resulted in these homes having power service since early in the fall. A number of new wells were drilled for settlers.

The government farm (175 acres) was seeded to green feed, and the total crop was harvested for winter cattle fodder. The government community cattle herd increased in numbers through spring calving. One animal was lost during the year, 23 were placed on fall stock sales, 32 cows were distributed to various settlers leaving this Branch with 85 head to winter. The number of cattle owned by settlers of the area increased slightly over the previous year.

Some additional land was broken for, and by, the settlers to further increase their own developed land for raising of cattle feed. The ARDA program for this area has received Provincial approval and is now awaiting final approval from Federal authorities. The Department of Highways rebuilt and gravelled 3 miles of the main outlet road this year, and it is anticipated that this program will be continued next year. This Branch improved 10 miles of access roads.

There are 73 children of school age on this area, 18 whom are in high school grades and attending at Heinsburg, Elk Point, St. Paul or Edmonton. The balance attend the local Northland School Division school on the Colony. Only 3 students either dropped out or completed their grade last school term. Of these, 3 female students, one is now married, one is at home and the third is employed in a hospital.

Settlers took out 55,000 F.B.M. in logs during the last winter. This has now been sawed into lumber which will be used for local housing. Of this lumber settlers have donated 14,000 F.B.M. for a community hall, construction of which will begin next year. Settlers also cut, treated and sold approximately 60,000 poplar posts.

Four adult settlers are in full time employment off the Colony, while an additional 22 obtain seasonal employment away from home. The total population of this area decreased by 8% from last year.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Grain harvested - very little grain harvested on Metis Areas this year due to harvest weather. Most of the Paddle Prairie crop is still in the stand and there is very little hope of any salvage next spring.
2. Cattle numbers (both settler's and government community herd) have increased by 122 or 7½% over that of last year.
3. Number of horses on all areas remains practically the same as last year. No settler has any sheep.
4. The number of fowl on all colonies has almost doubled over last year, and hogs have increased by approximately 5%.
5. The total population of all Colonies increased by 11.2% over that of last years. Caslan, Kikino and Elizabeth had small percentage increases, Paddle Prairie, Big Prairie and Gift Lake were slightly higher, that of East Prairie increased by 40%, and there was an 8% decrease in the population at Fishing Lake.
6. ARDA funds approved for Colonies during the year:

Paddle Prairie	\$31,944.00
Caslan	25,300.00
	27,700.00 (for 1968-69 year-final approval January 3, 1969)
Kikino	36,000.00
Elizabeth	<u>16,200.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$137,144.00</u>

7. The Federal Department of Agriculture has continued to supply the Bull Loaning Associations at Kikino, Caslan, Elizabeth and Fishing Lake with top quality registered bulls. The distribution by type and Colony follows:

Kikino	3 Angus 2 Hereford
Caslan	1 Hereford 1 Angus
Elizabeth	1 Hereford 4 Angus

8. Of those students who attended school or talk courses last year and either completed school (or course) or dropped out

- 1 student at the U. of A. - 1st year of pharmacy
- 1 student at N.A.I.T. - 1st year of electronics
- 2 working full time for Great Slave Lake Railway
- 2 working full time for A.G.T.
- 1 working full time as a security officer
- 1 working full time in mine at Pine Point
- 1 joined Canadian Armed Forces
- 1 teaching for Northland School Division
- 1 stenographer working in Edmonton
- 3 engaged in the lumbering industry
- 4 working full time - occupations unknown
- 5 have taken up land on a Colony and intend to farm and ranch
- 3 are now housewives
- 3 are at home and unemployed

